

Message Text

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FROM LEARY FOR CUNNINGHAM AND BENGELSDORF, DOE

OES FOR AMB. PICKERING; S/AS FOR AMB. SMITH; T. FOR DR. NYE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON TOKAI MURA REPROCESSING
PLANT

1. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND JAPANESE TECHNICAL TEAMS
ON THE TOKAI MURA REPROCESSING FACILITY CONCLUDED SEPTEMBER
9 WITH RELEASE OF JOINT PRESS STATEMENT (SENT SEPTTEL).

2. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THE JAPANESE PRESENTED A
DETAILED REVIEW OF WORK AT OTL ON COPROCESSING, INCLUDING
RANGES OF PRODUCT RATIOS BEING CONSIDERED, AND BOTH SIDES
REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF WORK RELATING TO COCONVERSION.
THE JAPANESE DELEGATION FURTHER REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF
ACTIVITY AT THE TOKAI MAIN PLANT, THE POSSIBILITY FOR
INCREASING PLUTONIUM NITRATE STORAGE, AND PLUTONIUM
SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION FOR JAPANESE ADVANCED REACTOR
PROGRAMS THROUGH 1985. THE DELEGATIONS ALSO DISCUSSED
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PAPERS ON REPROCESSING THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO INFCE
WORKING GROUP 4 LATER THIS MONTH.

3. JAPANESE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ON US WORK ON COCONVERSION, PARTICULARLY THE
COPRECAL PROCESS. THE US DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT A
MEETING BE HELD IN THE US IN EARLY 1979 TO GO INTO FURTHER

DETAIL ON COCONVERSION AND THAT IN THE INTERIM A SMALL TECHNICAL TEAM VISIT THE GE PLANT AT SUNNYVALE TO STUDY THE COPRECAL PROCESS. THE JAPANESE WELCOMED THIS SUGGESTION AND IT WAS AGREED THAT FIRM DATES FOR THE MEETING WOULD BE SET AFTER BOTH DELEGATIONS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH CONCERNED AGENCIES.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: SUBSEQUENT TO CONCLUSION OF MEETING, LOW-KEY STORIES BASED ON PRESS RELEASE APPEARED IN JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS. GENERAL TENOR WAS THAT NO CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN REACHED BY TECHNICAL GROUP. SAME PAPERS CARRIED STORIES WITH KYODO WASHINGTON DATELINE BASED ON MINISTER KUMAGAI'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS MEETING WITH AMB. SMITH, REPORTING THAT AMB. SMITH WOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ALLOWING TOKAI MURA TO OPERATE BEYOND SEPT. 1979 LIMIT OF CURRENT AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF DELAYS EXPECTED IN CONCLUDING INFCE. PAPERS ALSO SAID THAT AMB. SMITH SHOWED "UNDERSTANDING" FOR JAPAN'S PLANS TO REPROCESS SPENT FUEL IN UK AND FRANCE. MANSFIELD

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